

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The Office Action dated July 14, 2004 in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 19, and 20 have been amended in this Response. Claims 14-18 have been determined by the Examiner to be in condition for the allowance. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks for those Claims not in condition for allowance.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. Pho Luu, on October 12, 2004 to discuss the rejections under U.S.C. §102(e) and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended.

The Specification is objected to as the Abstract assertedly containing improper language. Applicants have replaced "The present invention provides for" on line 1 of the Abstract with --A method, an apparatus, and a computer program are provided to--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands as objected to as assertedly containing a typographical error in that an "and" was missing after the semicolon on line 13. Applicants contend that the rationale underlying this amendment bears no more than a tangential relation to any equivalence in question because an "and" was added after the semicolon on line 13. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 122 S.Ct. 1831 (2002).

Claims 2 and 8 stand as objected to as being based on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are overcome because Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to include all limitations of

Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 2 and 8 be withdrawn and that Claims 2 and 8 be allowed.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,493 to Christensen ("Christensen"). Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are overcome.

Rejected independent Claim 1 as now amended more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, "a true local bit_line coupled to the true node of the SRAM cell *that is at least configured to be driven inversely to the write true_bit line.*" (Emphasis added.) Support for this Amendment can be found, among other places, page 8, lines 4-8 and FIGURE 2 of the original Application.

Christensen does not suggest, teach, or disclose true node of the SRAM cell that is at least configured to be driven inversely to the write true_bit line. Specifically, Christensen suggests, teaches, or discloses SRAM where a write true_bit signal is not explicitly inverse of the true node of an SRAM cell. By utilizing the continuous bit_line signal in combination with the write true_bit signal that is inversely driven with respect to the true node of the SRAM as with the present invention of Claim 1, high speeds can be maintained while reducing the area required for additional transistors, whereas Christensen requires additional transistors to perform similar functions.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 1 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over this reference and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Christensen be withdrawn and that Claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 3-7 depend on and further limit Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 3-7 also be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of Claims 9, 19, and 20 are overcome for at least some of the reasons that the rejection of Claim 1 as amended is overcome. These reasons include Christensen not disclosing, teaching, or suggesting “evaluating the true node of the SRAM cell, *wherein the true node is inverse of a write true signal.*” (Emphasis added.) Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended Claims 9, 19, and 20 are clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited references in any combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the unique combination now recited in amended Claims 9, 19, and 20. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claim 9 is clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over this reference and the remaining references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 9, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Christensen be withdrawn and that Claims 9, 19, and 20 be allowed.

Claims 10-13 depend on and further limit Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 10-13 also be withdrawn.

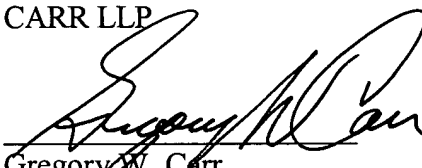
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-20.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP


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